

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

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March 3, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St S.W  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

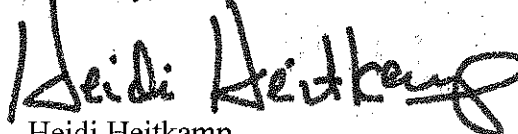
I write in support of the nomination of Pat Mastel to serve on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Broadband Development Advisory Committee (BDAC).

Mr. Mastel currently serves as Associate General Counsel at Midcontinent Communications (Midco), a mid-sized telecommunications company that serves hundreds of rural and urban communities throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Kansas with advanced telecommunication services. In this position, Mr. Mastel spearheads Midco's legal efforts with right-of-way acquisition, pole attachment agreements, and regulatory matters at the federal, state, and local levels. The focus of the BDAC is to make recommendations to the FCC on how to accelerate high-speed internet deployment by investigating the regulatory barriers to such infrastructure investment. Mr. Mastel's work in such a largely rural and sparsely populated geographic region would allow him to bring a unique and important perspective to BDAC.

Over the years, Midco has continually set the standard for what it means to be a model telecommunications company through their dedication to their customers in both rural and urban locations. With a seat on the BDAC, Mr. Mastel would bring valuable experience and insight to aid the FCC in its mission of expanding high-speed internet access around the country.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Mastel to serve in this capacity. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Heitkamp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Pat Mastel, Associate General Counsel of Midcontinent Communications, to serve on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Mastel's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the BDAC.

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country, including rural America. The BDAC is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment. Its mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and to make recommendations on reducing and/or removing them, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage broadband deployment to all Americans.

I appreciate your taking the time to communicate your recommendations to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of each name being prominent.

Ajit V. Pai